

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS, POST-PLenary CONVERSATIONS,
JULY 6, 1977 (SALT TWO-1266)

1. (ROWNY - JOHNSON/SHCHUKIN, A-1627)

HEAVY BOMBERS

SHCHUKIN MADE A PLEA THAT THE US DELEGATION INDICATE WHERE IT
COULD AGREE WITH PORTIONS OF II.3, THUS "FACILITATING OUR WORK."
ROWNY TOLD SHCHUKIN THAT HE DID NOT DISAGREE IN PRINCIPLE WITH
WORKING ON LANGUAGE BUT THAT HE WOULD PREFER THAT THE SIDES SEEK
AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANCE, BELIEVE THAT THE RESOLUTION OF LANGUAGE
PROBLEMS QUICKLY FOLLOWED. TOWNY ADDED THAT IN THIS RESPECT THE
SOVIETS' DISCUSSION OF WHAT THEY CALLED "CHARACTERISTICS" AND WHAT
WE CALLED "CAPABILITIES" OF HEAVY BOMBERS WAS HELPFUL AND THAT WE
MIGHT PROFITABLE PURSUE THIS LINE OF THOUGHT.

SHCHUKIN SIAD THE RUSSIAN WORKD FOR "CAPABILITY" DEFINED AN

END-RESULT SUCH AS "DROPPING BOMBS ON A TARGET." ROWNY SAID THAT
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THE ENGLISH WORD "CAPABILITY" HAD THE SAME MEANING BUT THAT THE
NOUN "CAPABILITIES" ENCOMPASSED SUCH ITEMS AS RANGE,IPAYLOAD,
SPEED, FLIGHT PROFILE, AND THE LIKE. BY WAY OF CONTRAST, THE
WORD "CHARACTERISTICS" IN ENGLISH REFERRED TO PHYSICAL FEATURES
SUCH AS WINGSPAN AND WEIGHT OF AN AIRCRAFT.

SHCHUKIN SAID THAT WHETHER AN ITEM SUCH AS RANGE WAS A CHARAC-

TERISTIC OR A CAPABILITY WAS NOT OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE AND THAT THE DIFFERENCES IN LANGUAGE COULD BE HANDLED BY EXPLANATORY FOOTNOTES IN THE AGREEMENT. JOHNSON AND ROWNY AGREED WITH SHCHUKIN THAT THE IMPORTANT TERMS WERE NOT EH GENERIC ONES, BUT WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT THERE BE A MEETING OF MINDS ON SPECIFIC TERMS SUCH AS RANGE AND PAYLOAD.

JOHNSON TOLD SHCHUKIN HE HAD NOTICED THAT THE SOVIET PLENARY STATEMENT WENT FURTHER THAN PREVIOUS ONES AND SPECIFIED "MAXIMUM BOMB OR ASM PAYLOAD." SHCHUKIN CONFIRMED THIS.EARLE

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